



**WINLOCK CITY COUNCIL**

323 NE First Street / PO Box 777, Winlock, WA 98596

Phone: 360-785-3811 – Fax: 360-785-4378

Hearing Impaired Access (TTY) 711 or 1-800-833-6388

Email: [cityclerk@cityofwinlock.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityofwinlock.com) Website: [www.cityofwinlock.com](http://www.cityofwinlock.com)

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**Brandon Svenson, Mayor**

Jess Bowers, Council Position #1 \* Chuck Camps, Council Position #2 \* Jodie Curtis, Council Position #3 \*

Jeremy Allman, Council Position #4 \* Lindsey Alvord, Council Position #5

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**City Council Meeting**

**January 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Svenson called the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Mayor Brandon Svenson, Present, Jess Bowers, Present, Council Position #1; Chuck Camps , Present, Council Position #2; Jodie Curtis, Present, Council Position #3; Jeremy Allman, Present, Council Position #4; Lindsey Alvord, Present, Council Position #5.

**Others Present**

City Treasurer, Jill Davis

**1. Flag Salute**

Mayor Svenson led the flag salute.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Council Member, Jodie Curtis Motioned to Amend the Agenda adding Cascade Mental Health Clinic to agenda item (a) and moving all agenda items down. Second, by Council Member Jeremy Allman, the Motion passed unanimously.*

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- Mayor Svenson has reached out to Weyerhaeuser regarding the property off of Jones Road. Kenny has received the new crosswalk signs. Over the weekend there were some concerns about the reader board located in the plaza needing repairs. The lumber for this has already been purchased and painted. The public works department will have it repaired as soon as possible, weather permitting. Robert Webster has been checking on the status of the lights in Meyers Meadows but has not heard back yet. North Military Road is still closed. The original plans from Lewis County allowed an eight-foot section down the center of the road to remain. Knowing that this will cause future problems the city met with Benaroya about our concerns. We were able to come to an agreement and the middle section was ground out today. As soon as the road can be opened safely with flaggers it will be.

Council Member Alvord discussed the Emergency Response Plan. The plan is very large and has a lot of different parts. She would like to see the city create a committee with representatives from the school, fire department, city, and others to see this plan through.

**4. MAYOR COMMENTS** – Mayor Svenson thanked the staff for their hard work and work ethic. There have been a few things that seem to be a hot topic on the Facebook Community Forum that should be addressed. Recently there was a house fire in town and the community has stepped up. It appears there was an issue with the City’s policy for water and sewer services. Facebook nor the staff at the front window can override these policies. This must be done through City Council. If you disagree with policies, come to a council meeting for a discussion. There was also some misinformation put out there regarding the City’s budget. Mayor Svenson explained the budget from the last few years, from having to clean up a hazardous site to providing services to the newly annexed area even though the city was not receiving revenue. This did cause the need for an interfund loan over the past 2 years. This loan is from ourselves and is paid back with interest. After many discussions this option was proven to be the most suitable as we did not have to raise taxes or pull out of reserves. Another topic on the community forum was the audit from the State Auditor’s Office. The audit was for the years 2019 – 2021. During this time the city had seen numerous changes in staffing, attorney services, services provided by neighboring cities. With the previous clerk/treasurer and clerk no longer with the city it has been very difficult to navigate how things were being done. Mayor Svenson did read an article that was published in the Lewis County News a few years ago that addressed some of these issues that are being brought up once again.

**5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Council Member Curtis commented on the personal remarks that have been made about her on the Facebook Community Forum. She also mentioned that the construction being done at the Jehovah Witness Church on Kerron is causing a sight issue; this will be addressed.

## **6. Reports**

**Police Chief, Stephen Valentine** – Stephen was called out, Mayor Svenson read aloud an email that was sent to the City by Lewis County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Blake Teitzel, commending Chief Valentine and his work ethic and leadership. Mayor Svenson then read through Chief’s December Call Activity Report for Winlock and Toledo. Winlock’s year-to-date call log was 1,509 calls while Toledo’s was 154 since September 2024.

### **Community Development Director, Robert Webster** –

- a. Robert again briefly discussed the stormwater agreement we currently have with Washington State DOT. Robert said we will not own the property this stormwater system is on, but we will continue to monitor and still see that the HOA is responsible for the maintenance. If for any reason they don’t fix it, or the HOA would dissolve. Then we could charge a monthly fee for all stormwater maintenance.

- b. Robert briefly explained that the RCW is included on the agenda to see if Council would like to enact an ordinance or not.

**7. Public Comment – Johnny Hochgraefe, Winlock**

Johnny is new to Winlock in the last eight months. He thanked everyone here for their service to Winlock. He had questions regarding the City’s audits; are they mandated, who performs them, how often, and when the last one was done. Marissa and Jill were able to answer his questions explaining that the audits are mandated by the State and the State Auditor’s Office conducts them. The city could hire a third-party auditor as well but has never done so. The last audit was just completed, which was for years 2019 – 2021. The next audit is set to begin this fall. The State has been behind on audits since COVID, and this last audit took some time. Mr. Hochgraefe then asked if the public wanted to see the books for Winlock, how would they do that. Marissa explained that they would need to make public records request and explained that the more specific the request the quicker it is fulfilled. Marissa also explained the public records process.

Kathy Chastain, Winlock

Kathy thanked the mayor for covering most of her topics. She did questions about the new sidewalks on North Military Rd. There is still plastic covering the sidewalks and it is starting to blow in the wind and is becoming hazardous. Mayor Svenson will have this addressed. Kathy also inquired who currently owns the old Hostel site; it was explained that the previous owner was able to sell it right away as he skipped town.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Vouchers for December 31, 2024, for eight thousand eight hundred eighty-three dollars and eighty-eight cents (\$8,883.88); approval of Vouchers for January 13, 2025, for two hundred twenty-seven thousand twenty-five dollars and seventy-four cents (\$227,025.74); and approval of minutes from December 23, 2024. ***Council Member, Jeramy Allman Motioned to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second, by Council Member Jody Curtis, the Motion passed unanimously.***

**9. AGENDA**

- a. **Cascade Mental Health Services Presentation** – Two representatives from Cascade Mental Health were present to clear up some misinformation that was being talked about online regarding a proposed Medical Assisted Treatment facility in downtown. This is not a methadone clinic, nor will there be any drugs on site. The proposed facility is a place where someone can request a visit and receive prescription, counseling, and support services for drug/alcohol addiction. This is funded through a federal grant and the purpose is to reach those who want these services but do not have means to get into Centralia/Chehalis. Currently there are two other clinics in rural Lewis County, Morton and Packwood. They have not had any issues at either of these clinics. The proposed location is between The Club Tavern and Off the Rails Hair Salon. Council Member Alvord voiced her concerns and inquired of why Winlock was a choice. They are seeing a large amount need for people in the Winlock Napavine, and Onalaska area and there is no bus line in these areas to get people into town.

Council Member Alvord does not like the location as it is right across the street from City Hall and right next to the library. Council Member Curtis was concerned with location as well. Lesa Givens, Winlock voiced her opposition of a clinic being in downtown Winlock, is there a better place that could be considered. Kathy Chastain, Winlock, does not disagree that there is a need, just not in the downtown area. New businesses may not want to come into town due to the fear of the unknown. Council Member Bowers inquired how many employees would there be; 3. Where will parking be; out front. The downtown area already has parking issues, this will not help. Council Member Bowers also agrees that that there is a need, but the downtown area is not the place for this clinic. Robert Webster mentioned that he lives right next to Cascade Mental Health in Chehalis and has never seen a problem. The consensus is that the potential location could be a problem and maybe they could look at a newly vacant area up by the medical office.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-01 - Agreement, Hearing Examiner** – It was determined that a resolution was not needed for this agreement. This agreement is a renewal of an existing agreement with Mr. Vander Stoep. Marissa had an amendment to Section 10, making the term three (3) years. ***Council Member Jeremy Allman Motion to Approve the Hearing Examiner Agreement with J. Vander Stoep as amended. Second by, Council Member Jodie Curtis, the Motion passed unanimously.***
  
- c. **Dangerous Trees** – Robert Webster provided Council with the RCW that the City could use to act upon with dangerous trees throughout the City. After a brief discussion Council felt that unless the trees were encroaching on a right of way then the issue should remain between property owners. There were concerns of the City having to hire an arborist to determine the health of a tree on not being reimbursed by property owner. ***Council Member Jeremy Allman Motioned to table the Dangerous Tree on private property. Second by, Council Member Jodie Curtis, the Motion passed unanimously.***
  
- d. **Fund Request – Pump #4 Repair – Rodney Cecil** – Rodney explained the issues with Pump #4 failing due to water getting into it. He is still working with Whiteny Company on how this happened but needs to have the pump repaired at roughly \$11,000 or replaced with a new one for approximately \$17,000. The money would be out of the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund, which is budgeted for repairs. Council had a discussion on being able to rebuild the old pump to have as a spare. ***Council Member Jeremy Allman Motioned to Approve the purchase of a new pump for Pump #4 and the costs to repair the existing pump not to exceed \$30,000. Second by, Council Member Jodie Curtis, the Motion passed unanimously.***

**10. Adjournment**

*Council Member, Jodie Curtis Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Council Member Lindsey Alvord, the Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.*

Mayor Svenson adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.



Brandon Svenson, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Jill Davis, City Treasurer